## LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I),

the N-oxide forms, the addition salts and the stereo-chemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is N or CR<sup>7</sup>, wherein R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or taken together with R<sup>1</sup> may form a bivalent radical of formula -CH=CH-CH=CH-;

 $R^1$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl or thiophenyl;

 $R^2$  is hydrogen, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ alkynyl or taken together with  $R^3$  may form =O;

R<sup>3</sup> is a radical selected from

$$-(CH_2)_{S}$$
-  $NR^8R^9$  (a-1),  
-O-H (a-2),  
-O-R<sup>10</sup> (a-3),  
-S-  $R^{11}$  (a-4), or  
— $C\equiv N$  (a-5),

wherein

s is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are each independently selected from –CHO, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino,

 $di(C_{1\text{-}6}alkyl)aminoC_{1\text{-}6}alkyl,\ C_{1\text{-}6}alkyloxycarbonyl,\ C_{1\text{-}6}alkylcarbonylaminoC_{1\text{-}6}alkyl,$ 

piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminocarbonyl, piperidinyl, piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminocarbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, thiophenylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

pyrrolyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylpiperidinyl, arylcarbonyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, arylcarbonylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindozolylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and

R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

or R<sup>3</sup> is a group of formula

$$-(CH_2)_t-Z$$
 (b-1),

wherein

t is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

-Z is a heterocyclic ring system selected from

wherein R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, aminocarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, aryl,

$$-C_{1-6}$$
alkanediyl $-N$ 
 $-C_{1-6}$ alkanediyl $N$ 
 $O$ 

 $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, di(phenyl $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl), piperidinyl, piperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

 $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryloxy(hydroxy) $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindazolyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino, morpholino,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylimidazolyl, pyridinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino; and

R<sup>13</sup> is hydrogen, piperidinyl or aryl;

 $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, halo, trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy, amino, amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, di( $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl)amino, di( $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl)amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy or  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl, or  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy, or amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy; or when  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are on adjacent positions they may taken together form a bivalent radical of formula

$$-O-CH_2-O$$
 (d-1),

-O- $(CH_2)_2$ -O- (d-2), -CH=CH-CH=CH- (d-3), or -NH-C(O)-NR<sup>14</sup>=CH- (d-4), wherein R<sup>14</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

aryl is phenyl, phenyl substituted with halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy;

with the proviso that when

n is 0, X is N,  $R^1$  is  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl,  $R^2$  is hydrogen,  $R^3$  is a group of formula (b-1), t is 0, -Z is the heterocyclic ring system (c-2) wherein said heterocyclic ring system -Z is attached to the rest of the molecule with a nitrogen atom, and  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen or

C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; then

at least one of the substituents  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  or  $R^6$  is other than hydrogen, halo,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy and trihalomethyl.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein

 $R^1$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3$  is a radical selected from (a-1), (a-2), (a-3) or (a-5) or is a group of formula (b-1); s is 0, 1 or 2;  $R^8$  and  $R^{10}$  are each independently selected from

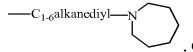
-CHO, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

 $C_{1-6}$ alkylcarbonylamino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, piperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

 $piperidinyl C_{1\text{--}6} alkylamino carbonyl, \ C_{1\text{--}6} alkyloxy, \ thiophenyl C_{1\text{--}6} alkyl,$ 

pyrrolyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylpiperidinyl, arylcarbonyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, arylcarbonylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindozolylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or

 $arylC_{1-6}alkyl(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl;$  t is 0 or 2; -Z is a heterocyclic ring system selected from (c-1), (c-2), (c-4), (c-6), (c-8), (c-9), or (c-11); R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen,



 $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aminocarbonyl,

, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino,

di(phenylC<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl), piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl,

 $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindazolyl, or aryl $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl;  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, halo, trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy,

 $C_{1\text{--}6}alkyl, C_{1\text{--}6}alkyloxy, \\ di(C_{1\text{--}6}alkyl) amino, \\ di(C_{1\text{--}6}alkyl) amino \\ C_{1\text{--}6}alkyloxy \\ or \\$ 

C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl; and when R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are on adjacent positions they may taken together form a bivalent radical of formula (d-1) or (d-2).

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 and 2 wherein n is 0; X is CH; R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen; R<sup>3</sup> is a group of formula

(b-1); t is 2; -Z is a heterocyclic ring system selected from (c-1); R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen; R<sup>13</sup> is hydrogen; and R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are on adjacent positions and taken together form a bivalent radical of formula (d-2).

4. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from according to claim 1, 2 and 3 wherein the compound is compounds No 16, compound No 144, and compound No. 145:-

5. (Original) A compound of formula (VII-a),

the N-oxide forms, the addition salts and the stereo-chemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

 $R^1$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and aryl are as defined in claim 1;

Re is hydrogen or taken together with Rd may form a bivalent radical of formula

(e-1), or

(e-2),

wherein R<sup>15</sup> and R<sup>16</sup> are each independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

$$-C_{1\text{-}6} \text{alkanediyl} -N \\ -C_{1\text{-}6} \text{alkanediyl} \\ , -C_{1\text{-}6} \text{alkanediyl} \\ , C_{1\text{-}6} \text{alkyloxy} \\ C_{$$

piperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryloxy(hydroxy) $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or aryl $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl; or

 $R^d$  is  $di(C_{1\text{--}6}alkyl)aminoC_{1\text{--}6}alkyl$  or piperidinyl $C_{1\text{--}6}alkyl$ .

- 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and as an active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1-to-5.
- 8. (Cancelled).
- 9. (Currently Amended) A method of treating in a subject Use of a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a PARP mediated disorder, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of wherein said compound is a compound of formula (I)

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^{4} \\
R^{5} \\
R^{6}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^{2} \\
R^{3}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
CH_{2})_{n} \\
R^{5} \\
R^{6}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R^{1} \\
R
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
R$$

the N-oxide forms, the pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts and the stereo-chemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is N or CR<sup>7</sup>, wherein R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or taken together with R<sup>1</sup> may form a bivalent radical of formula -CH=CH-CH=CH-;

 $R^1$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl or thiophenyl;

 $R^2$  is hydrogen, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ alkynyl or taken together with  $R^3$  may form =0;

R<sup>3</sup> is a radical selected from

$$\begin{array}{lll} \hbox{-(CH_2)_S-NR^8R^9} & \quad \ \ \, \text{(a-1),} \\ \hbox{-O-H} & \quad \ \ \, \text{(a-2),} \\ \hbox{-O-R}^{10} & \quad \ \ \, \text{(a-3),} \\ \hbox{-S-R}^{11} & \quad \ \ \, \text{(a-4), or} \\ \hline \ \ \, \ \ \, \ \ \, \ \ \, \end{array}$$

wherein

s is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are each independently selected from -CHO, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino,

 $di(C_{1\text{-}6}alkyl)aminoC_{1\text{-}6}alkyl,\ C_{1\text{-}6}alkyloxycarbonyl,\ C_{1\text{-}6}alkylcarbonylaminoC_{1\text{-}6}alkyl,$ 

piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminocarbonyl, piperidinyl, piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminocarbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, thiophenylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

pyrrolyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylpiperidinyl, arylcarbonyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, arylcarbonylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindozolylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and

 $R^9$  is hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

or R<sup>3</sup> is a group of formula

$$-(CH_2)_{t}-Z$$
 (b-1),

wherein

t is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

(c-9)

-Z is a heterocyclic ring system selected from

wherein R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, aminocarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, aryl,

(c-11)

$$-C_{1-6}$$
alkanediyl $-N$ 
 $-C_{1-6}$ alkanediyl $N$ 

(c-10)

 $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $C_$ 

 $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryloxy(hydroxy) $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindazolyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino, morpholino,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylimidazolyl, pyridinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino; and  $R^{13}$  is hydrogen, piperidinyl or aryl;

 $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, halo, trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy, amino, amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, di( $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl)amino, di( $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl)amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy or  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl, or  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy, or amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy; or when  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are on adjacent positions they may taken together form a bivalent radical of formula

aryl is phenyl, phenyl substituted with halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy.

- 10. (Cancelled)
- 11. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the effectiveness of chemotherapy of comprising administration of a compound according to claim 1, in a therapeutically effective amount so as to increase sensitivity of cells to chemotherapy, prior to administration of said chemotherapy Use according to claim 9 and 10 wherein the treatment involves chemosensitization.
- 12. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the effectiveness of radiotherapy of comprising administration of a compound according to claim 1, in a therapeutically effective amount so as to increase sensitivity of cells to ionizing radiation, prior to administration of said radiotherapy Use according to claims 9 and 10 wherein the treatment involves radiosensitization.
- 13. (Original) A combination of a compound with a chemotherapeutic agent wherein said compound is a compound of formula (I)

the N-oxide forms, the pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts and the stereo-chemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is N or CR<sup>7</sup>, wherein R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or taken together with R<sup>1</sup> may form a bivalent radical of formula -CH=CH-CH=CH-;

 $R^1$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl or thiophenyl;

 $R^2$  is hydrogen, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ alkynyl or taken together with  $R^3$  may form =0;

R<sup>3</sup> is a radical selected from

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{-(CH$_2$)$_8$- NR$^8$R$^9} & \text{(a-1),} \\ \text{-O-H} & \text{(a-2),} \\ \text{-O-R$^{10}} & \text{(a-3),} \\ \text{-S- R$^{11}} & \text{(a-4), or} \\ \hline \text{-C=N} & \text{(a-5),} \\ \end{array}$$

wherein

s is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are each independently selected from –CHO, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino,

 $di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonylaminoC_{1-6}alkyl,$ 

piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminocarbonyl, piperidinyl, piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminocarbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, thiophenylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

pyrrolyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylpiperidinyl, arylcarbonyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, arylcarbonylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindozolylpiperidinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and

 $R^9$  is hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

or R<sup>3</sup> is a group of formula

$$-(CH_2)_{t}-Z$$
 (b-1),

wherein

t is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

## -Z is a heterocyclic ring system selected from

wherein R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, aminocarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, aryl,

$$-C_{1-6}$$
alkanediyl $-N$ ,  $-C_{1-6}$ alkanediyl $N$ ,

 $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $C_$ 

 $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryloxy(hydroxy) $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, haloindazolyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, aryl $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino, morpholino,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylimidazolyl, pyridinyl $C_{1-6}$ alkylamino; and

R<sup>13</sup> is hydrogen, piperidinyl or aryl;

 $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, halo, trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy, amino, amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, di( $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl)amino, di( $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl)amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy or  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl, or  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy,  $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy, or amino $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyloxy; or when  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are on adjacent positions they may taken together form a bivalent radical of formula

$$-O-CH_2-O$$
 (d-1),  
 $-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$  (d-2),

-CH=CH-CH=CH- (d-3), or  
-NH-C(O)-NR<sup>14</sup>=CH- (d-4),  
wherein R<sup>14</sup> is 
$$C_{1-6}$$
alkyl;

aryl is phenyl, phenyl substituted with halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy.

- 14. (Original) A combination of a compound according to claim 5 with a chemotherapeutic agent.
- 15. (Currently Amended) A process for <u>preparation of preparing</u> a compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5, characterized by <u>comprising</u>:
- a) the hydrolysis of intermediates of formula (VIII), according to art-known methods, by submitting the intermediates of formula (VIII) to appropriate reagents, such as, tinchloride, acetic acid and hydrochloric acid, in the presence of a reaction inert solvent, e.g. tetrahydrofuran,

b) the cyclization of intermediates of formula (X), according to art-known cyclizing procedures into compounds of formula (I) wherein X is CH herein referred to as compounds of formula (I-j), preferably in the presence of a suitable Lewis Acid, e.g. aluminum chloride either neat or in a suitable solvent such as, for example, an aromatic hydrocarbon, e.g. benzene, chlorobenzene, methylbenzene and the like; halogenated hydrocarbons, e.g. trichloromethane, tetrachloromethane and the like; an ether, e.g. tetrahydrofuran, 1,4 dioxane and the like or mixtures of such solvents,

c) the condensation of an appropriate ortho-benzenediamine of formula (XI) with an ester of formula (XII) into compounds of formula (I), wherein X is N and R<sup>2</sup> taken together with R<sup>3</sup> forms =O, herein referred to as compounds of formula (I-a-1), in the presence of a carboxylic acid, e.g. acetic acid and the like, a mineral acid such as, for example hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, or a sulfonic acid such as, for example, methanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid and the like,

d) hydrolysing intermediates of formula (VI), wherein R³ is a group of formula (b-1) or a radical of formula (a-1) wherein s is other than 0, herein referred to as R³, according to art-known methods, such as stirring the intermediate (VI) in an aqueous acid solution in the presence of a reaction inert solvent with the formation of intermediates and compounds of formula (VII), wherein R⁴ and Re are appropriate radicals or taken together with the carbon to which they are attached, form an appropriate heterocyclic ring system as defined in -Z, and

e) converting intermediates of formula (VII), by a selective hydrogenation of said intermediate with an appropriate reducing agent and an appropriate reductant in a suitable solvent with the formation of compounds of formula (I) wherein R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>g</sup> is as defined above, herein referred to as compounds of formula (I-i).

16. (Currently Amended) A process for <u>preparation of preparing</u> a compound as claimed in claim 5, comprising <del>characterized by</del>

a) reacting a compound of formula (VII-a), wherein R<sup>e</sup> taken together with R<sup>d</sup> forms a bivalent radical of formula (e-1) or (e-2) (e.g. a bivalent radical of formula (e-1)) and R<sup>15</sup> or R<sup>16</sup> (e.g. R<sup>15</sup>) are hydrogen, herein referred to as compounds of formula (VII-a-2), with an intermediate of formula (XIX) wherein W is an appropriate leaving group such as, for example, chloro, bromo, methanesulfonyloxy or benzenesulfonyloxy and R<sup>15</sup> or R<sup>16</sup> (e.g. R<sup>15</sup>) are other than hydrogen, with the formation of compounds of formula (VII-a-1), defined as compounds of formula (VII-a), wherein R<sup>e</sup> taken together with R<sup>d</sup> forms a bivalent radical of formula (e-1) or (e-2) (e.g. a bivalent radical of formula (e-1)) and R<sup>15</sup> or R<sup>16</sup> (e.g. R<sup>15</sup>) are other than hydrogen, in a reaction-inert solvent; or

b) reacting a compound of formula (VII-a-2) with an intermediate of formula (XX) wherein R is an appropriate substituent whit the formation of compounds of formula (VII-a) wherein  $R^{15}$  or  $R^{16}$  (e.g.  $R^{15}$ ) are aryloxy(hydroxy) $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, herein referred to as compounds of formula (VII-a-3), in the presence of 2-propanol.